

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached new drawing sheets include changes to FIGS. 1, 2 and 6. These sheets, which include FIGS. 1, 2 and 6, replace the original sheets that included FIGS. 1, 2 and 6. The amendments to the drawings are further discussed in the *Remarks* section of this amendment.

REMARKS

DRAWINGS

Applicant has amended the FIGS. 1 and 2 to add reference numeral 37 which now designates the bolt. FIGS. 1 and 2 have been further amended so that reference numeral "24" is underlined as requested by the Examiner. FIG. 1 has been additionally amended to illustrate the features designated by reference numerals 43 and 44 to be located in the moveable element 26. FIG. 6 has been amended so that reference numeral "200" includes a lead line as requested by the Examiner. These amendments are in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.84 and are reflected in the Replacement Sheets submitted herewith.

The aforementioned amendments to the figures do not add new matter within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 132. It is respectfully requested that these amendments be entered.

SPECIFICATION

Paragraphs 29 and 69 have been amended as previously indicated, to add reference numeral 37 which now refers to the bolt. No further elaboration is believed necessary and withdrawal of this objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-24 are pending. The Examiner is thanked for the indication that claim 22 is allowed. Examiner is further thanked for the indication that claims 3, 4, 6-10, 13-18, 22 and 24 contain allowable subject matter. Claims 1, 2, 21 and 23 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of these claims in this or another application.

Claims 3, 6 and 24 have each been rewritten in independent form to include all the features of their individual base claims and any intervening claims in accordance with the Examiner's recommendation. Claim 24 has been further amended to recite "while" in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion. It is respectfully submitted that claims 3, 6 and 24, and any claims depending directly or indirectly therefrom, are now in condition for allowance.

Claims 5 and 11-13 have been amended to change their dependencies. Claim 19 has been amended to recite a plurality of sealing elements for sealingly engaging the first moveable element to the collar and inward protrusion when the first moveable element is in the shutoff position. This feature is similar to the feature of claim 3 as originally filed, which was indicated allowable by the Examiner.

Accordingly, no new matter has been added by these amendments and no estoppels are intended thereby. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

OFFICE ACTION

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112, SECOND PARAGRAPH

Claim 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctively claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 13 has been amended to depend from claim 12, providing antecedent basis for the recitation of the attaching means. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that this § 112 rejection be withdrawn.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

(1) Claims 1, 2, 5, 11, 19 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Stark (U.S. 5,772,214). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant notes that a claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. (quoting *Verdegall Bros. V. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631 (Fed. Cir. 1987)).

Without conceding the propriety of the prior art rejection, claims 1, 2 and 21 have been cancelled rendering this rejection moot with respect to these claims. Claims 5 and 11 have been amended to depend from independent claim 3 and are believed allowable for at least this reason. Claim 19 has been amended to recite a plurality of sealing elements for sealingly engaging the first moveable element to the collar and inward protrusion when the first moveable element is in the shutoff position. This feature is similar to the feature recited in claim 3 as originally filed, which was indicated allowable by the Examiner. Moreover, it is believed that Stark fails to disclose at least this aspect of amended claim 19. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection to claims 1, 2, 5, 11, 19 and 21 be withdrawn.

(2) Claim 23 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Larkins (U.S. 5,303,933). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Without conceding the propriety of the rejection, claim 23 has been cancelled rendering this rejection moot. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that this 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection to claims 1, 2, 5, 11, 19, 21 and 23 should be withdrawn.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

(1) Claim 12 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Stark (U.S. Patent No. 5,772,214) in view of Larkins (U.S. Patent No. 5,303,933). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 12 has been amended to depend from independent claim 3 and is believed allowable for at least this reason. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

(2) Claim 20 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Stark (U.S. Patent No. 5,772,214) in view of Sexton et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,213,468). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 20 depends from amended claim 19 and is believed allowable for at least this reason. Accordingly, Applicant requests that this rejection to claim 20 be withdrawn.

ADDITIONAL REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests that a copy of the form PTO-1449 filed July 3, 2003, be initialed and returned to the Applicant.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of the application are believed in order, and such action is earnestly solicited.

No extension-of-time fee or other fees are believed due. However any extension of time necessary to prevent abandonment is hereby requested, and any fee necessary for consideration of this response is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account Number 50-2036.

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite issuance of the application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at 202/861-1714.

Respectfully submitted,

BAKER & HOSTETLER LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen S. Fabry", with a stylized, flowing script.

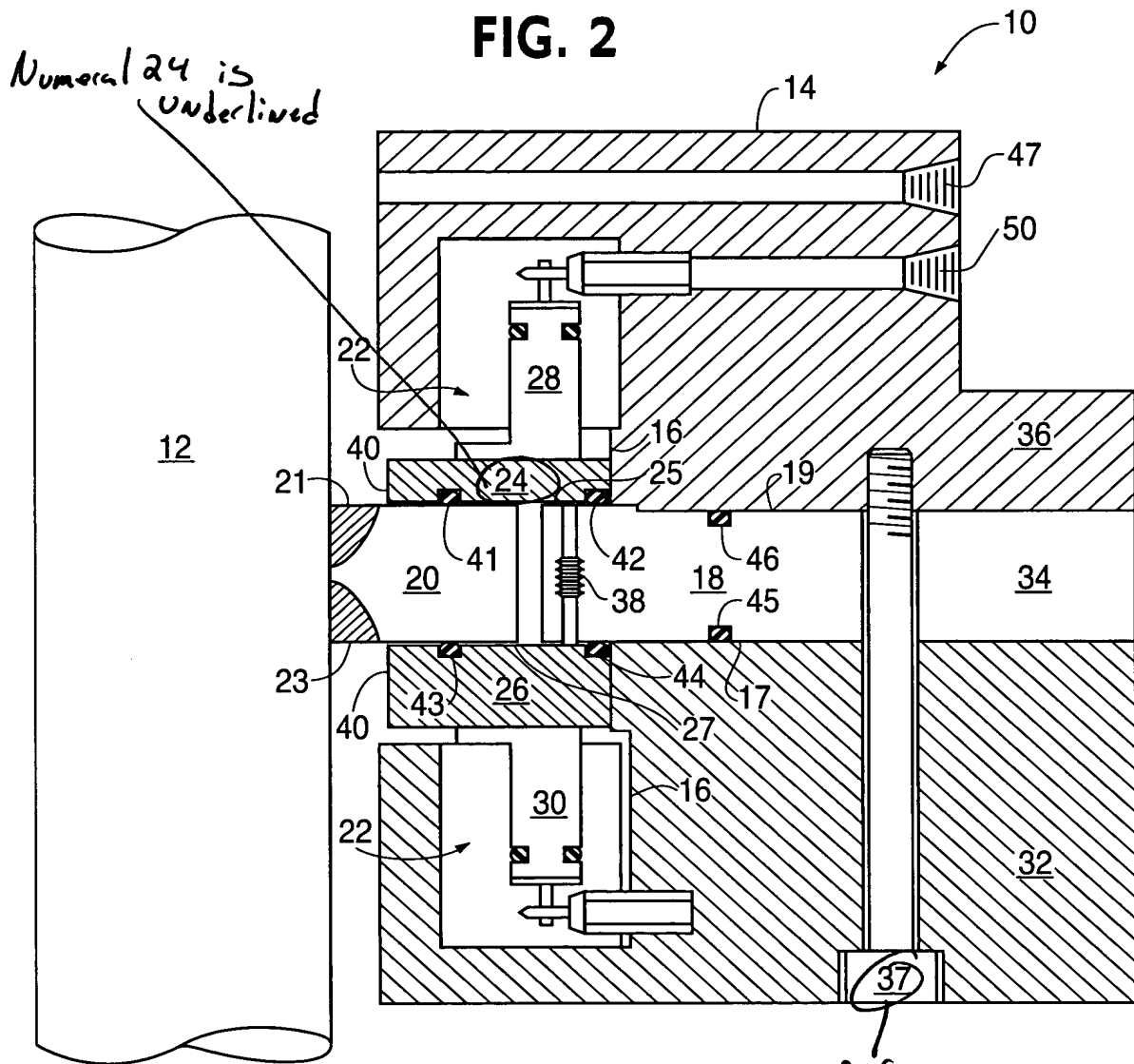
Stephen S. Fabry
Registration No. 51,661

Date: 10/23/03
Washington Square, Suite 1100
1050 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036
Tel. 202 861 1500
Fax. 202 861 1783

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Reply to Office Action of Sept. 17, 2003
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

FIG. 2



*Reference numeral 38
was deleted and numeral 37
was added*



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FIG. 6

